

Amendments to the Specification and Abstract:

Please replace the first paragraph beneath the title on page 1 with the following paragraph and amended paragraph and headings:

Related Applications

This application is a U.S. national stage application under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international application PCT/CH2003/000385 filed June 13, 2003, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Switzerland application number 1536/02 filed September 10, 2002.

Technical Field

The invention relates to a device for indicating tension ~~according to the preamble of Claim 1~~ in a tensioning element.

Background

On page 2, please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph with heading:

Summary of the Invention

The goal of the invention is to design a pretension indicator ~~of the type referred to in the preamble of Claim 1~~ for indicating tension in a tensioning element such that a result is displayed in response to weak forces, and that the geometry of the spring, and thus the spring constant, is preserved when high forces are applied, and such that the movement of the spring is precisely limited to the range of the specified force. The terms spring constant and

spring rate refer to properties of the element, specifically, spring thickness and spring geometry.

On pages 2 and 3, the paragraph bridging these pages should be amended to read:

This goal is achieved according to the invention ~~by the features of Claim 1~~disclosed herein. The solution is based on a combination of two elements which are interactively linked, wherein, on the one hand, small forces are displayed in the tensioned system and, on the other hand, the allowable pretension is indicated by a positive-engaging end position. The spring constant of the spring is dimensioned such that the force to be detected is directly readable. In order to ensure that the spring does not change shape when this force is exceeded, the path of the spring is restricted by a formed piece. The positive engagement of the elastic spring with the elastic formed piece is capable of accommodating a multiple of the displayed force. By exploiting the different properties of these components, the combination of two or more components allows for both simplified fabrication and tolerance in the fabrication technique by incorporating prefabricated components in the production process. The function of each individual component is thus restricted to an essential range, thereby ensuring that its function is performed in an optimal manner. The attachment of additional functions does not overload the individual component; instead, these functions can be reliably implemented using the material which is readily able to take on this function.

On page 3, above the paragraph beginning "Figure 1 shows the functional principle" insert at the left margin the following heading:

Brief Description of Drawings

On page 3, before the last paragraph on the page, at the left margin insert the following heading:

Detailed Description

Please add the Abstract of the Disclosure set forth below to the specification. A separate page numbered page 7 and containing the Abstract of the Disclosure is enclosed herewith for addition to the specification in this regard.

Abstract of the Disclosure

In this device for indicating (10) pretensioning forces in a tensioning element (7), such as tie-down straps or tie-down ropes, the spring surrounds the tie bolt (3) which is located on the loop of the tie-down strap, and in response to weak forces describes a path (6) which is easily visible. The combination of two components which differ in shape allows the spring (1) to maintain its shape and spring constant. As a result, the pretensioning force is indicated directly, yet the spring is not subject to an additional load under high tensions but is protected by positive engagement.